CONSPIRACY!

GLORIA STEINEM

I was in Chicago to see a panel on the RFK assassination at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual meeting last October. The panel was to include showing of the long suppressed film, *"THE SECOND GUN"* - a documentary proving the fatal shots did not come from Sirhan's gun. The film slipped off the reel, and its creator Ted Charach discovered oil had been poured all over it. Back in his room, he got a call: "This time it was the film, next time it's you."

Shortly after its release, *"THE SECOND GUN"* was nominated for the documentary "Golden Gloves" award. Warner Brothers' Films bought the rights to it, and then refused to show it. Not even the "Golden Gloves" judging panel could view it. Charach carried a single copy around until it was taken from him at gunpoint: "You aren't going to show that film anymore". One person who took an interest in the film then was Representative Allard Lowenstein of New York, an RFK admirer and intimate. Charach, who had been in the pantry when RFK was killed, continued his pursuit of truth. Two excellent forensics and ballistics experts got involved. William Harper, a 30-year independent who developed the Balliscan Macrograph camera to do close-up ballistic studies, noted discrepancies in the bullets. Herb MacDonnell from Philadelphia concurred. Seven years into his work, Charach's substantive questions were finally raised in *Harpers*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*. American Films was willing to re-do his movie. And into the limelight of this new area of doubt, over Tom Snyder's national *TOMORROW* show, steps Rep. Allard Lowenstein.

In this hubbub, I attended a press conference before the forensics panel. Charach began it, answering questions and showing photos. Suddenly, Lowenstein appeared and claimed it was "his press conference", and that he would leave unless they stopped talking to Charach. The press has physically accomodated each with a couch, but Lowenstein's insistence finally led to a revelation from Ted Charach. Apparently, Lowenstein's earlier interest in RFK had lagged from a promise of Congressional investigation to a request to withdraw any mention of his name in connection with the film, just before it opened in New York. Then silence, until years later when the issue broke nationally and Al Became a spokesperson.

So, Sherman Skolnik asked Lowenstein what his connection was to the CIA, since a *Ramparts* expose on the infiltration of the National Student Association (NSA) by the CIA revealed that Al was the president of that body the year it happened. Lowenstein replied that his only relation to them was that he was under surveillance, and that he did know Gloria Steinem when she was in the CIA, although he didn't know it then. It was in the newspapers, he later assured me.

Gloria Steinem? You don't mean Gloria Steinem of the Women's Liberation Movement, do you? The same. I never did like those rose colored glasses. Gloria's rise to leadership in the Women's Liberation Movement in 1969 was sudden and apparently without background. She had graduated from Smith, and took a Chester Bowles Asian Fellowship to Universities in India from 1956-58. She wrote a book published in 1957, titled *THE THOUSAND INDIAS*, but copies are hard to find. She rose to some prominence in the journalistic field, worked on civil rights, and then joined the women's issue.

In 1967, *Ramparts* printed an expose on a CIA-front known as the Independent Research Service (IRS). The CIA covered the funding route to the group by a complex scheme. Initial funds went through the Borden Trust and the Price, Edsel, Beacon, and Kentfield Funds. Then on to the Independence Foundation - working through Boston law offices of Hale and Dorr (who also provided James St. Clair as Nixon's chief counsel). They in turn funded the Independent Research Service and the NSA. The *Ramparts* story led to a *New York Times* piece that year revealing Gloria Steinem as Co-Founder, Director, and full time staff person of the IRS. Unlike some NSA leaders who repudiated their past CIA connections on discovery, Gloria defended her role (NYT, FEB. 21, 1967).

In fact, her whole response to the revelations seems to have been an attempt to hide her history. In her first listing in *Who's Who In America 1968-69*, she notes her directorship or IRS from 1959-62, and acknowledges a current position on their Board of Directors, suggesting a ten year alliance. But in the *Who's Who* for 1969-70, (the year she became publicly involved in Women's Liberation) and later years, her directorship is reduced to 1959-60, and her Board position is never mentioned again.

What is the Independent Research Service? A *New York Times* article of February 16, 1967, and another titled "CIA Subsidised Festival Trips", reveal that the IRS concentrated on sending Americans to the Communist World Youth Festivals to disrupt them. Gloria claims her two years in India convinced her to attend, and she happened to meet National Student Association officers who told her about CIA funds available for a trip to the 1959 Vienna Festival. But why they trusted her with such information isn't clear. She attended it, and helped set up a small, but effective counter festival. In 1962, she attended a similar meeting in Helsinki, where the anti-communist youth factions broke into rioting. When I asked her about her relationship to IRS and the CIA on WHIO's "Conversation Piece", she responded only by saying that respectively 13 and 16 years ago she had attended communist youth festivals as part of a group that took "some funding" from the CIA (NYT, 1967, quotes her as saying the CIA was "a major source of funds" for IRS), but claimed that the CIA did not try to "influence" her in any way.

In 1968, *Ramparts* printed letters exposing a plot to disrupt the youth festival in Sofia, Bulgaria for that year. Apparently, the anti-communist International Union of Socialist Youth was being sent $50,000 a year in CIA funds through the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs (CIA-front) and the IRS. Gloria was still presumably connected to them.

In 1960, IRS published a "Report on the Vienna Youth Festival", a cold

war propaganda tract. Although Gloria Steinem claimed that she "was never asked to report on other Americans or assess foreign nationals I had met", the publication contains 13 pages of profiles, dossiers on 82 attendants including a US activist. The report bears her name as Director, and names two Executive Officers of IRS: Leonard M. Bebchick and Paul R. Sigmund, Jr. Bebchick was International Affairs Vice-President of the NSA in 1953, a lawyer before the National Aeronautics Board, and in 1965 arranged a 15-year free lease for NSA's DC headquarters via the Independence Foundation conduit. Paul Sigmund had opposed anti-war activities on Harvard Campus, and went on to work as a Prof. of Politics at Princeton. His works on "revolutionary ideology" are published by Praeger (exposed in 1967 as a recipient of CIA funds). These three collaborated on an earlier IRS publication, "A Review of Negro Segregation in the United States", a blatantly racist report that blames black oppression on their acceptance of negro stereotype roles, and claims vast improvements in integration in America. Blaming low voter registration on black "apathy" rather than white violence. A photograph shows four white women surrounding a crowned black woman, all in evening dresses, the caption reads: "That gala American spectacle, the 'beauty contests', now segregates only according to beauty: the prettiest girl wins." Well, we all have a past, but it's time Gloria cleaned up the cloudiness in hers.

Most of the information in this section is available in an excellently researched press release on "Gloria Steinem and the CIA" from Redstockings of the Women's Liberation Movement (PO Box 413, New Paltz, NY 12561). They accuse Gloria and *Ms.* magazine of setting up a "parallel" movement to de-fuse radical issues and collect information. Gloria, they fear, may be using her position and *Ms.*'s reputation to infiltrate and influence the National Black Feminist Organization and her own group, the Women's Action Alliance (a "clearinghouse" funded in good part by Rockefeller money). The Women's Action Alliance Board of Directors includes former US Attorney and NYC Deputy Police Commissioner, Franklin A. Thomas, who convicted three black man for a police-initiated plot to blow up the Statue of Liberty. And *Ms.* policies don't do much to dispel suspicions. A recent letter complained of the "sexist hiring practices" of the CIA (they use pink covers and different questions on tests for women), but not about the CIA itself. *Ms.* advertizers include ITT, Exxon, Bell Telephone, Singer Aerospace, Gulf & Western Oil (another mob-linked company), and Merill Lynch investors. A lot of nice guys. Gloria and *Ms.* even did a TV show, *"WOMAN ALIVE"*, with the Public Broadcasting Corporation (Penn Jones, a Dallas-area investigator, revealed that the head of PBC is listed in *Who's Who in the CIA*), filmed in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas.

Both Gloria Steinem's journalistic and public speaking careers, and *Ms.* itself, were launched by the money and energy of Clay Felker. Felker, who worked on *New York* and *Esquire*, bought out *Village Voice*, which recently refused to print an anti-*Ms.* interviews. He put up the money for the preview issue of *Ms.* in January, 1972 - much of it appeared as a special supplement to his '71 year end issue of *New York*. This is public knowledge, but few know Felker accompanied Steinem to the 1962 Helsinki Festival, and edited a CIA-financed English newspaper while there.

The stockholders in *Ms.* are interesting as well. Besides Gloria herself, they include:

PAT CARBINE: Current *Ms.* editor, former editor of *McCalls*. She contends that Women's Liberation has entered "Phase Two" - moderates in, radicals out. She named Gloria as 1971's "Woman of the Year".

KATHERINE GRAHAM: Publisher/owner of *Washington Post* and *Newsweek*. She bought $20,000 in stock before the first issue was out. She is an intimate of Henry Kissinger and Frederick Sessions Beebee of the Post, who was a major contractor for the Vietnam war. I believe that the Post's role in ousting Nixon was no coincidence. *Newsweek* avidly promoted the Independent Research Service in 1959 and '62, and Gloria in 1965 and '71. A *Ms.* cover story named Katherine "the most powerful woman in America".

ELIZABETH PORSLING HARRIS: Penn Jones' work reveals that this woman was known in the intelligence community as "our Dallas contact" from 1961-65. She once arranged for Gloria Steinem to speak in Dallas. According to several researchers, she sat in on a special meeting of the Sam Bloom Advertising Agency (her employer) where she, Jack Pewterbaugh, and Secret Service made the last-minute change in the route of JFK's motorcade, fatally slowing it through Dealey Plaza. Sam Bloom agency was also the first ad company to attempt PR coverage of a trial - Jack Ruby's.

THE PST GROUP, INC.: This curious conglomerate does everything from data processing to marketing consultation. Known as Phillips, Stewart, Turner & Associates, they also run Scientific Apparatus Makers Association. They were, until recently, located on the same floor as the *Ms.* offices.

WARNER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.: This was the major investor ($1 million in stocks), but is mysteriously a minor stockholder (25%). This unbusiness-like action may reflect something. Steven ross, their chief Executive Officer, worked for National Kinney Services (listed in the top 100 defense and anti-personnel weapons contractors for Vietnam in *EFFICIENCY IN DEATH*) before it merged with Warner. Through a subsidiary, National Periodical Publications, they publish "Wonder Woman" comics, with a heroine figure who worked for Army Intelligence to preserve "the last citadel of democracy and of equal rights for women", America. In addition to that, they own cable TV and publishing firms, do building maintenance and construction, control parking lots, and produce Warner Brothers records and films (the same company that suppressed *"THE SECOND GUN"* - remember?

On the same WHIO show, Gloria denied knowledge of any instance of government surveillance of the women's movement. But that won't make it go away. Women are being questioned and subpoenaed now, lesbian groups surveilled and harassed. In 1962, a Committee of Correspondence (another "clearing house" set-up) was established by the CIA to keep track of women's groups. *COUNTER-SPY* (from Fifth Estate, PO Box 647, Wash., DC 20044) revealed details of a CIA operation using the League of Women Voters Overseas Educational Fund, financed by the Asia Foundation (a CIA conduit since 1956) to spy on women in Africa and Asia. CIA operatives and funding are laced throughout recent International Women's Year activities.

Many ex-CIA and National Student Association people now work for the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). They recently gave $238,000 to a Center for Women Policy Studies to survey new treatment for rape victims. The line LEAA pushes via these "victimization centers" is that defending yourself only makes rape worse, so it's better to take it and then try to forget it. They also sponsor a "Citizen's Initiative - Accent on Women" program that is "specifically aimed at utilizing this powerful force in our society" in fighting crime. Last year, LEAA Administrator Donald Santarelli said, "It's off-the-pedestal, out-of-the-cage, and onto-the-police-beat time."

Well, I hope not. None of this is to say that the women's movement is just another CIA plot, but it does suggest how a real struggle can be co-opted and manipulated. Meanwhile, Allard Lowenstein, who "knew Gloria Steinem when she was in the CIA", has formed a coalition with William F. Buckley (right wing commentator, CIA operative, and godfather to E. Howard Hunt's children) to investigate the RFK assassination. I wonder what they'll find. Maybe they'll tell us it was the same group of radical, terrorist lesbians who authorities claim harbored Patty Hearst, Jane Alpert, Susan Saxe, etc. Such is the web of my suspicions. Free our sisters, free ourselves!

- John Judge

Those who wish further information on this subject of fascist conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. can write to me at Box 1625, Dayton, OH 45401. Send three (3) self-addressed, stamped *legal size* envelopes. Stamps and Contribution$ needed and gratefully accepted. Mae Brussell's *DIALOGUE: CONSPIRACY* show is aired weekly on WYSO-FM 91.5 on Tuesday nights at midnight - news of the week related to larger national conspiracy. Tune in!

WEED PENALTIES REDUCED!

On Friday, August 22, Republican Gov. James A. Rhodes signed into law a measure making Ohio the latest State to abandon jail penalties for minor marijuana offenses. Ohio joins Oregon, Alaska, Maine, Colorado and California in changing their public policy toward marijuana. The provisions of House Bill 300, a comprehensive drug bill which maintains strong criminal sanctions toward all other drugs, call for a maximum $100 fine for possessing up to 100 grams of marijuana. Enforcement is by a citation, similar to a traffic ticket.

H.B. 300 was first introduced two years ago as Ohio Attorney-General, William J. Brown's "law-and-order" drug bill. Later, over the objections of the Attorney General, several legislators, including Reps. Ed Orlett (D.-Dayton), Harry Lehman (D.-Cleveland), Charles R. Saxbe (R.-Mechanicsburg) and Mike Stinziano (D.-Columbus) and Sen. Stanley Aronoff (R.-Cincinnati), were successful in amending the proposal to include the more moderate marijuana penalties.

When the reduced penalties become effective in three months, possessing up to 100 grams (about 3½ ounces) of marijuana will be classified as a "minor misdemeanor" and specifically exempted from any criminal record. Lesser amounts of hashish (5 grams) and hashish oil (1 gram), both concentrates of marijuana, will also carry the maximum $100 fine.

Richard Wolfe, Columbus businessman and Chairman of the Franklin County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Board, called the new measure "a balanced bill that properly addresses both the so-called 'hard' and 'soft' drug problems." Wolfe recently testified before the state legislature in support of the bill along with Art Linkletter; University of Virginia Law Professor Richard Bonnie, former Associate Director of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse (Shafer Commission); J. Pat Horton, District Attorney for Lane County, Oregon; and award winning science writer, Edward Brecher, author of Consumer Union's highly respected book, *LICIT AND ILLICIT DRUGS*.

NORML's Ohio state coordinator, Cleveland attorney David Weiner, called this latest legislation "a tribute to the people of Ohio." He praised the lawmakers for their willingness to incorporate sensible marijuana penalties into the bill at a time when the subject still raises emotions among many Ohioans. "They remained firm with the dangerous drugs, while adopting a realistic position for marijuana," said Weiner.

Ohio's old marijuana law, one of the toughest in the nation, treated possession of marijuana for sale with a minimum 10 year sentence, and sale of any amount with a minimum 20 year sentence. In a recent landmark federal court decision, *Downey V. Perini*, (July 3, 1975), the 6th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals ruled that the harshness of these penalties, in contrast with lesser penalties available for many crimes of violence, were "cruel and unusual punishment", in violation of the 8th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

	First Offense	*Subsequent Offense*
MARIJUANA POSSESSION - up to 100 grams (gm), up to 5 gm hashish or 1 gm hash oil	$100 fine only	same
100-200 gm, 5-10 gm hashish or 1-2 gm hash oil	0-30 days and/or $250	same
200-600 gm, 10-30 gm hashish, or 2-6 gm hash oil	6 months-5 years and/or $2500	1-10 years and/or $5000
over 600 gm, over 30 gm hashish or 6 gm hash oil	1-10 years and/ or $5000	2-15 years and/or $7500
GIFT - 20 gm or less	$100 fine only (criminal record maintained)	0-60 days and/or $500
SALE - up to 200 gm, up to 10 gm hashish or 2 gm hash oil	6 months-5 years and/or $2500	1-10 years and/or $5000
200-600 gm, 10-30 gm hashish, or 2-6 gm hash oil	1-10 years and/ or $5000	2-15 years and/or $7500
over 600 gm, over 30 gm hashish, or 6 gm hash oil	2-15 years (6 mos. mandatory) and/or $7500	2-15 years (1 year mandatory) and/or $7500
CULTIVATION - any amount	6 months-5 years and/or $2500	1-10 years and/or $5000

- The above information and further information is available from NORML, 2317 M St., NW, 20037, or contact David Weiner (216) 621-0150.

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